

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

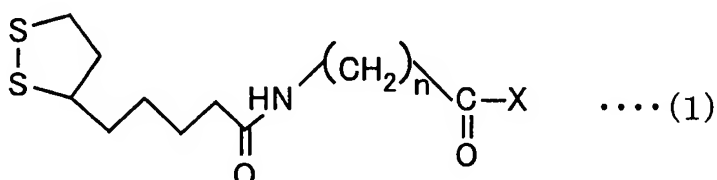
The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

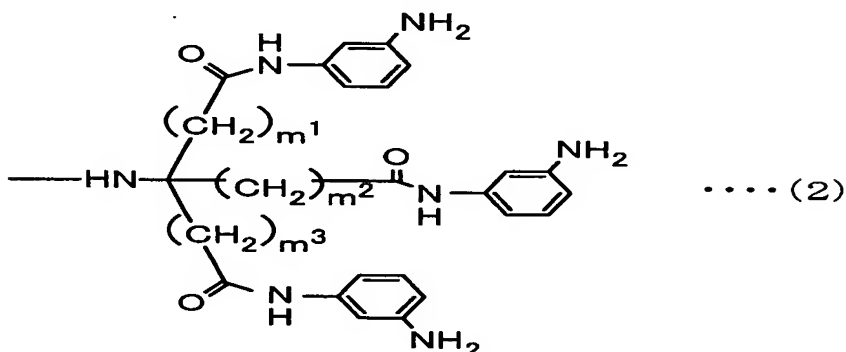
1. (Currently Amended) A linker compound ~~of~~comprising:

a structure represented by following general formula (1), where n is an integer of 1 to 6, and

~~X has a structure serving as a multi-branched structure moiety including three or four hydrocarbon derivative chains, wherein the hydrocarbon derivative chains each include an aromatic amino group at an end thereof, and a carbon-nitrogen bond and an amide bond in a backbone thereof.~~



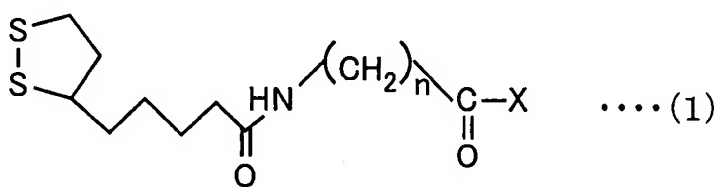
said X has a structure represented by the following general formula (2), where m<sup>1</sup>, m<sup>2</sup> and m<sup>3</sup> are independently an integer of 1 to 6.



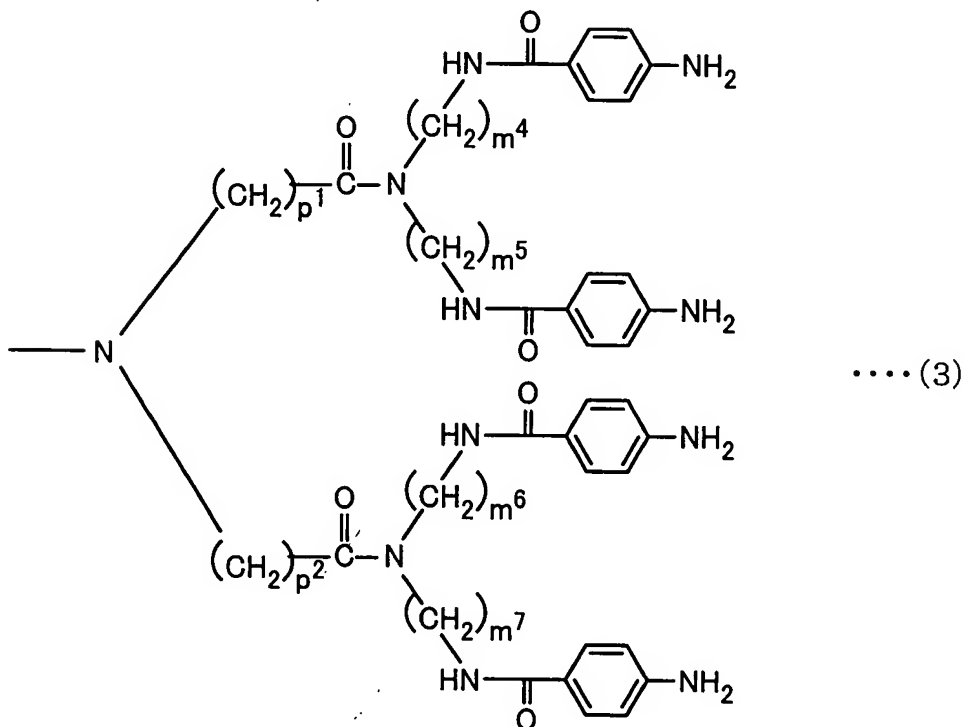
2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The linker compound according to Claim 21, wherein  $m^1$ ,  $m^2$ , and  $m^3$  are all 2 in said general formula (2).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A linker compound according to Claim 1, comprising:  
a structure represented by following general formula (1), where n is an integer of  
1 to 6, and



said X has a ~~a~~ structure represented by following formula (3), where  $m^4$ ,  $m^5$ ,  $m^6$ ,  $m^7$ ,  $p^1$ , and  $p^2$  are independently an integer of 1 to 6.

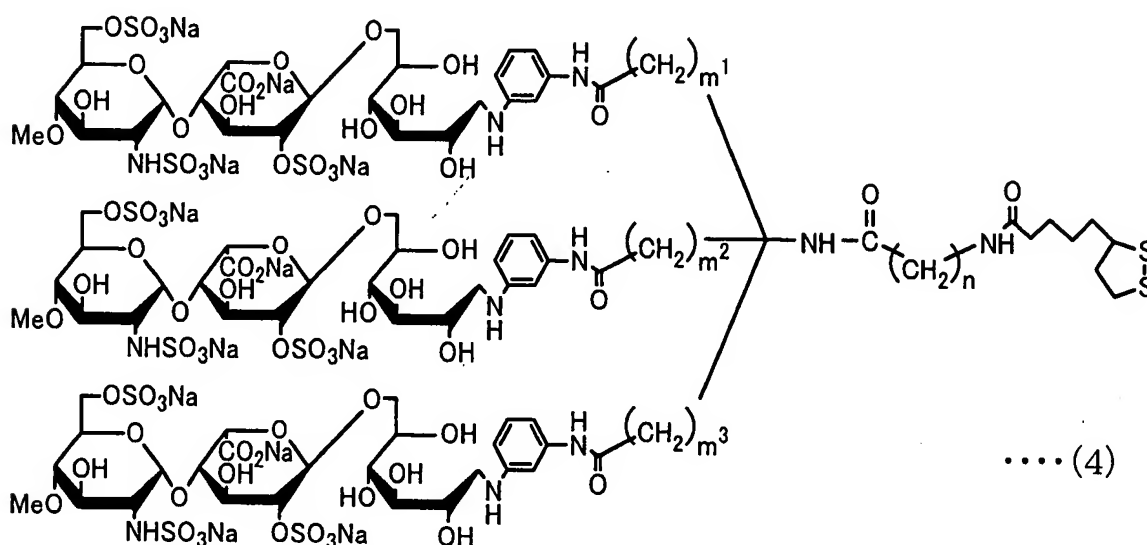


5. (Currently Amended) The linker compound according to Claim 24, wherein  $m^4$ ,  $m^5$ ,  $m^6$ , and  $m^7$  are all 2 and  $p^1$  and  $p^2$  are both 1 in the general formula (3)

6. (Previously Presented) A ligand which comprises the aromatic amino group of the linker compound according to Claim 1, and a sugar molecule introduced into the aromatic amino group.

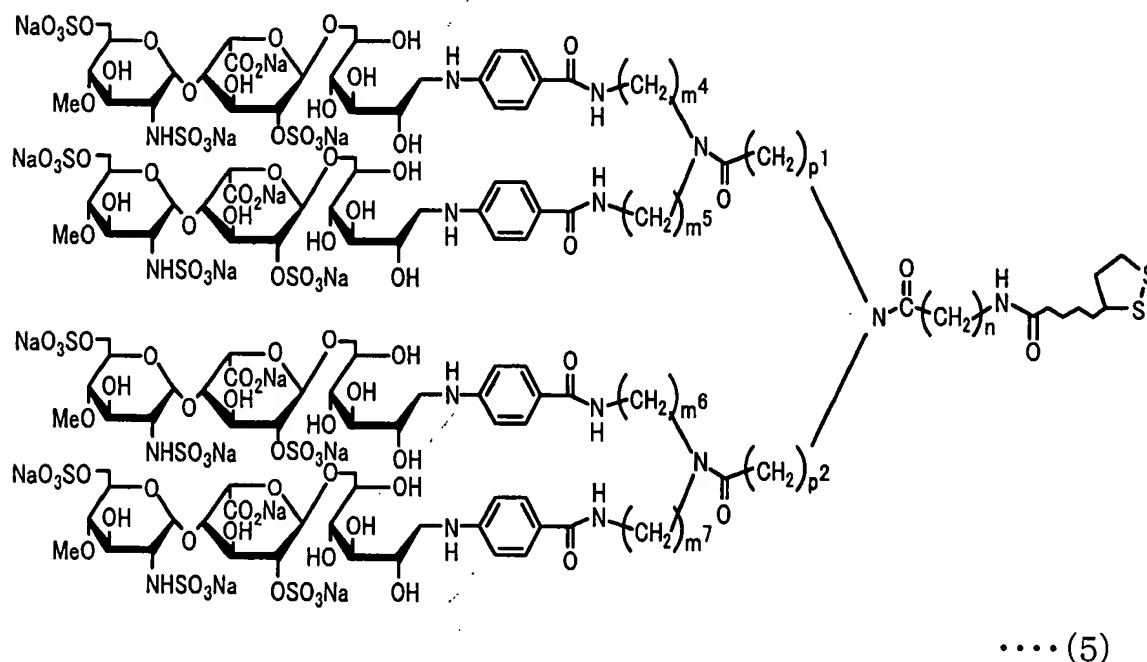
7. (Original) The ligand according to Claim 6, wherein the sugar molecule is at least one kind of sugar selected from the group consisting of a monosaccharide, an oligosaccharide, and a polysaccharide.

8. (Original) A ligand of a structure represented by following general formula (4), wherein  $m^1$ ,  $m^2$ ,  $m^3$ , and  $n$  are independently an integer of 1 to 6.



9. (Original) The ligand according to Claim 8, wherein  $m^1$ ,  $m^2$ , and  $m^3$  are all 2 and  $n$  is 1 in the general formula (4).

10. (Original) A ligand comprising a structure represented by following formula (5), wherein  $m^4$ ,  $m^5$ ,  $m^6$ ,  $m^7$ ,  $n$ ,  $p^1$ , and  $p^2$  are independently an integer of 1 to 6.



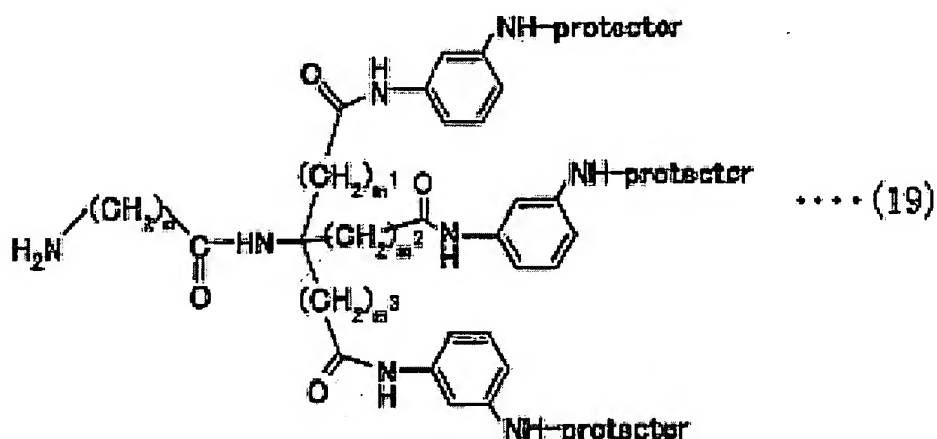
11. (Original) The ligand according to Claim 10, wherein  $m^4$ ,  $m^5$ ,  $m^6$ , and  $m^7$  are all 2, and  $n$  is 1, and  $p^1$  and  $p^2$  are both 1 in the general formula (5).

12. (Currently Amended) A producing method of athe linker compound of claim 1, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

carrying out a condensation reaction between thioctic acid and an amine compound whose aromatic amino group end is including three or four branched chains each having an aromatic amino group end protected by a protecting group which is a t-butoxycarbonyl

group, a benzyl group, or an allyl carbamate group, the amine compound being represented by the following general formula (19), where  $n$ ,  $m^1$ ,  $m^2$  and  $m^3$  are independently an integer of 1 to 6; and

deprotecting the protecting group at the aromatic amino group end.



13. (Previously Presented) A producing method of a ligand, comprising the step of carrying out a reductive amination reaction using the linker compound according to Claim 1, and a sugar molecule.

14. (Currently Amended) A sugar molecule introducing method for arranging a sugar molecule on a surface of a supporter,

said method comprising the step of, by causing a solution containing the ligand of Claim 6 to come into contact with a supporter whose surface has a metal, forming a S-metal bond between a S-S bond contained in the ligand of claim 6 and the metal of the surface of the support, via which S-metal bond, a sugar molecule contained in the ligand of claim 6 is arranged on the surface of the support.

15. (Currently Amended) A ligand carrier which comprises the ligand of Claim 6 immobilized on a supporter whose surface has a metal.

16. (Currently Amended) The ligand carrier according to Claim 15, wherein the support is used as a sensor chip for a surface plasmon resonance measurement.

17. (Currently Amended) The ligand carrier according to Claim 15, wherein the support is used as a column for affinity chromatography.

18. (Currently Amended) A sugar molecule introducing method for arranging a sugar molecule on a surface of a supporter,  
said method comprising ~~the step of~~ by causing a solution containing the ligand of Claim 8 to come into contact with a supporter whose surface has a metal, forming a S-metal bond between a S-S bond contained in the ligand of claim 8 and the metal of the surface of the support, via which S-metal bond, a sugar molecule contained in the ligand of Claim 8 is arranged on the surface of the support.

19. (Currently Amended) A ligand carrier which comprises the ligand of Claim 8 immobilized on a supporter whose surface has a metal.

20. (Currently Amended) The ligand carrier according to Claim 19, wherein the support is used as a sensor chip for a surface plasmon resonance measurement.

21. (Currently Amended) The ligand carrier according to Claim 19, wherein the support is used as a column for affinity chromatography.

22. (Currently Amended) A sugar molecule introducing method for arranging a sugar molecule on a surface of a supporter,  
said method comprising, ~~the step of~~ by causing a solution containing the ligand of Claim 10 to come into contact with a supporter whose surface has a metal, forming a S-metal bond between a S-S bond contained in the ligand of claim 10 and the metal of the surface of the support, via which S-metal bond, a sugar molecule contained in the ligand of Claim 10 is arranged on the surface of the support.

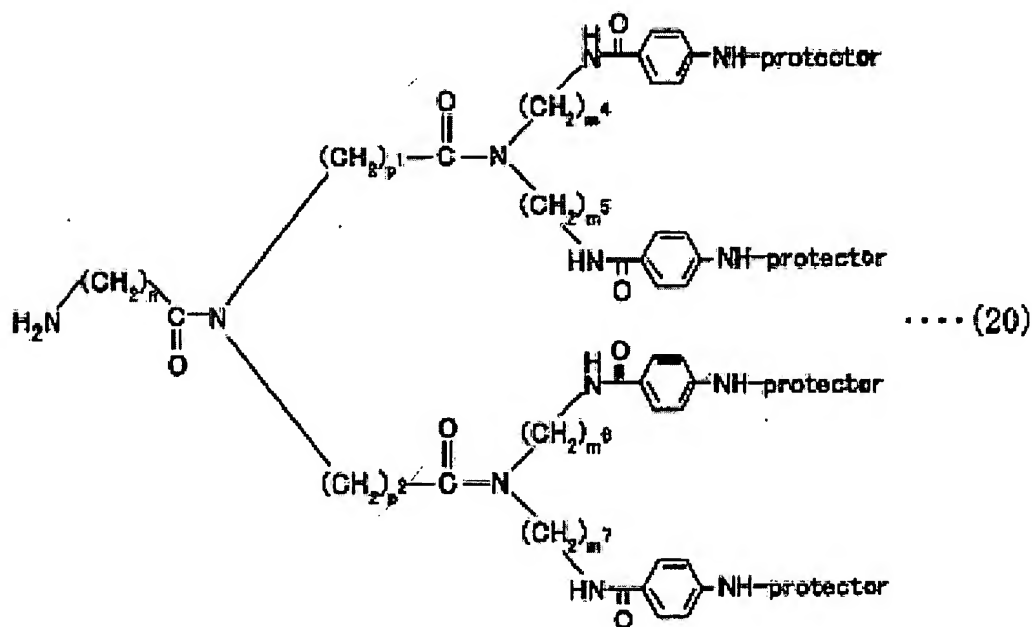
23. (Previously Presented) A ligand carrier which comprises the ligand of Claim 10 immobilized on a supporter whose surface has a metal.

24. (Currently Amended) The ligand carrier according to Claim 23, wherein the support is used as a sensor chip for a surface plasmon resonance measurement.

25. (Currently Amended) The ligand carrier according to Claim 23, wherein the support is used as a column for affinity chromatography.

26. (New) A producing method of the linker compound of Claim 4, comprising:  
carrying out a condensation reaction between thioctic acid and an amine compound whose aromatic amino group end is protected by a protecting group which is a t-butoxycarbonyl group, a benzyl group, or an allyl carbamate group, the amine compound

being represented by the following general formula (20), where n, m4, m5, m6, m7, p1, and p2, are independently an interger of 1 to 6; and  
deprotecting the protecting group at the aromatic amino group end.



<<remainder of page intentionally left blank>>